

## WHAT AND WHERE SCHENLEY PARK IS, WITH ITS BOUNDARIES



## ITS TOPOGRAPHICAL ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES, AND THE VIADUCT IT WILL REQUIRE

The location of Schenley Park, with regard to the nearest points of approach thereto, can be seen from the above map. From the Forbes avenue and Fifth avenue side, the nearest point is reached at Boquet street, 20 minutes drive from City Hall. From the intersection of Boquet street and Fifth avenue the distance, in a straight line to the boundary line, is about 770 yards. It is at this point that, very probably, the main approach from the city will be located. At a little distance below Forbes avenue, in the direction of Boquet street, the ground abruptly descends into the ravine below, and along which the Junction Railroad finds its way. From the bottom of the ravine a high bluff, extending far to the south, rises ruggedly. Once on the top, however, of this high ground the features of the tract become less broken, the land extending into broad plateaus, or sloping away into gullies and ravines, more or less well covered with undergrowth and timber.

The only available way of reaching this tableland from Boquet street and Forbes avenue is by means of a viaduct similar in effect to that which carries Forbes avenue across the ravine further along the road. This would necessitate a considerable outlay; but the advantages of the grand approach thereby obtained would, it is believed, more than repay the outlay. It will be seen that the park touches on a point very close to the river on the Four Mile Run side, being distant from second avenue about 630 yards. The distance from this point in a straight line to South Thirty-fourth street is very nearly two-thirds of a mile, or 1,130 yards.

## MANAGING THE PARK.

A Commission Suggested for This Purpose—A Zoological Garden May be Considered.

The park having materialized through the communication of Mrs. Schenley, much more tangible than ever a departed presence did through Dr. Slade's handwriting, the question was raised how it would be managed. Already applications are in course of preparation for appointments as landscape gardeners, laborers, foremen, superintendents and other positions of honor and emolument in connection with the park as soon as the necessary funds are forthcoming, and the chance of turning an honest dollar and an acquaintance to profit comes up.

The managers suggested for running the park are various, the first of the list being originally suggested in the DISPATCH of leaving the whole matter in the control of the Department of Public Works until it becomes too cumbersome for proper management. This view, which has been adopted until the appropriations are ready, and the other necessary legislation passed.

The suggestion is offered by several well-known men of the city, and is one which has been adopted by the people to hold office one, two, three and four years, the Chief of the Department of Public Works to be a member of the commission and to have the appointments with the general administration of park affairs to be passed on by this body. Other minor officials should be added, such as Park Superintendents, etc., and the place kept in such shape that it could be enjoyed without being abused by the people. The statement by Superintendent Hamilton, quoted at the meeting of the Parks Committee the other day, that Allegheny had no parks, they were simply flower gardens, is widely quoted to prevent the current park plan from being confined to "Keep off the grass."

Another proposition is to organize a zoological garden society in Pittsburgh which will place such an institution on the ground as purchased by the city and so conduct the enterprise that it will be self-supporting without profit. This is very favorably regarded by a large number of people who are themselves ready to subscribe liberally to the project as soon as the site and the action are determined on, so as to make the Pittsburgh park the rival of those of Philadelphia, Cincinnati, New York and other cities which blend instruction with recreation by giving points from the animal life of other climes.

The boom in property in the Squirrel Hill district still continues, and prices have advanced so rapidly that the speculators seem to have lost their heads. The Squirrel Hill Electric road, the opening of Barton street, and the building of the new park, have all been practically unimproved, and is not worth, in fact, will be far higher before the park improvements are finished. One gentleman said that the property along Forbes, Fifth avenue and Barton street would fetch \$2,000, and several months before the park was talked of he refused \$225,000 for it, and is still holding. Mr. Laughrey owns one side of Fralich street from Joseph street to the park, and the greater portion of the park is owned by J. K. Murray. Frederick G. Kay, the attorney, purchased some property out that way about a year ago for a comparatively low figure, and has since sold it for \$100,000 for a property. H. Samson has invested \$50,000 in real estate near the park lot.

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